

WILLOUGHBY HITS KOREA NEWS 'BIAS'

MacArthur's Aide Says Stories
Caused Chief's Dismissal—
Reporters Deny Charges

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's former chief of intelligence, retired Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby, charged yesterday that "biased, prejudiced and inaccurate" news coverage of the Korean war had contributed to the dismissal of General MacArthur from his Far East commands last year.

General Willoughby made specific accusations against six war correspondents and three news magazines of having "created an atmosphere of tension, uneasiness and distrust between Tokyo and Washington." The general said:

"This is believed to have been the major cause of the MacArthur-Truman split. A whispering campaign bears fruit in human relations—even the most complaisant husband will sooner or later pick up gossip, if it is repeated often enough and loud enough."

He named, as "among" writers guilty of alleged distortions, Joseph Alsop, syndicate columnist; Hanson W. Baldwin, military correspondent of THE NEW YORK TIMES; Homer Bigart, of The New York Herald Tribune; Hal Boyle of The Associated Press; Drew Pearson, syndicate columnist, and Christopher Rand, former member of The Herald Tribune Far East staff.

Magazines Called Defeatist

He named Time, Newsweek and the U. S. News and World Report as magazines that "appeared to go out of their way to create defeatist-thought patterns and to belittle the country's armed forces."

Writing in Cosmopolitan Magazine, General Willoughby said that the Heart and Scripps-Howard newspapers "have invariably been reliable and well informed." Cosmopolitan magazine is a Hearst publication. General Willoughby said that THE NEW YORK TIMES had published some "discerning editorials." His quarrel with Mr. Baldwin was over an article THE TIMES military analyst had written for the Saturday Evening Post before the Korean war began.

Much of General Willoughby's criticism of the war correspondents and columnists was directed against their reporting of situations in the pushback of United States forces by Chinese troops from the Manchurian border a year ago and their reporting that General MacArthur's headquarters had either received faulty intelligence about the Chinese build-up

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or had improperly valued it. General Willoughby also criticized war correspondents for having referred to the retreat from the Manchurian border, during which United States forces suffered heavy casualties, as a defeat.

General Willoughby's accusations were immediately challenged by most of those whom he accused, some of the writers citing the General's charges as further evidence of his unreliability. Mr. Baldwin said: "As an intelligence officer, General Willoughby was widely and justly criticized by Pentagon officials as well as in the papers. His present article is as misleading and inaccurate as were some of his intelligence reports."

Article Written Before War

Mr. Baldwin said his Saturday Evening Post article, of which General Willoughby had said "no more effective piece of destructive psychological warfare can be imagined," had not referred specifically to the Eighth Army, now in Korea, because it was written several months before the war began. The article, an evaluation of American soldiering, generalship and equipment, had said they were sometimes inferior to those of some other nations.

Mr. Bigart, now in Paris, cabled: "General MacArthur and his tight little circle of advisers have never been able to stomach criticism, whether from a war correspondent or the President of the United States. In an attempt to silence criticism, they have adopted the line that anyone who questions their judgment is 'inaccurate, biased and prejudiced' and that any criticism of them involves a slur on the whole army."

Mr. Boyle said: "The General's job was to obtain information about the Chinese and to evaluate it. I thought then, and I still think, that our intelligence was tragically bad. Generalities about 'bias and prejudice' can not outweigh the hard facts of defeat and the cold statistics of losses. It was not 'bias and prejudice' that rolled the

army back across thousands of square miles of lost ground."

Mr. Alsop said, in part: "Men like Homer Bigart and Hal Boyle who were frontline correspondents right through the war knew a damn sight more of what was going on than General Willoughby, so far as I was able to observe."

It appears that the old issue between us, and the press will now be drawn even more sharply than before — and that they will not cease to track and hound him for what they consider to be justified grounds, both public and personal. I do not see how anyone could do a secure and secret job under the circumstances.

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